

At page 5, lines 13-25, please amend as indicated below:

The threads 17 of the upper region are configured so that there are a greater number of threads per unit length in the upper region than there are threads per unit length in the lower region. For example, there may be twice the number of threads in the upper region than there are threads in the lower region. In another embodiment, the threads have an inverted buttress configuration 50 as shown in Figure 1A. That is, the threads are arranged so that the thread pitch is greater at the upper end of the upper region when compared to the thread pitch at the lower end of the upper region. The applicants have found that a thread pitch of 25°/10° (i.e., 25° at the upper end and 10° (i.e., 25° at the upper end and 10° at the lower end) is a suitable thread pitch, although the skilled artisan may recognize that other thread pitches are also suited. Threads 17 may have a major diameter 23 of .205 - .210 inches and a minor diameter of .138 - .141 inches, although the skilled artisan would understand that other possibilities are available. The applicants have found that a #12 - #18 thread arrangement is suitable for this region.--

In the Drawings

A proposed new drawing Figure 1A is enclosed. Applicant requests approval and entry by the Examiner. No new matter has been added.

In the Claims

Please delete claims 9, 38, 43, 49, 50, 65, 98, 105, 111, 112, 114, 115, 116, 117 and 118 without prejudice to filing in a later application.

Please amend claims 1, 18, 19, 23, 29, 34, 41, 45, 47, 52, 54, 59, 63, 74, 75, 76, 77, 78, 79, 100, 101, 102, 103 and 104 as indicated below.